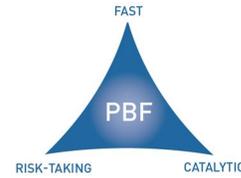




United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office



[MALI]

**PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

**PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2014**

Project No & Title:	PBF/IRF-84/ Confidence-building through Support to the Cantonment Process in Kidal (Mali)		
Recipient Organization(s) <sup>1</sup> :	UNOPS		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):	UNOPS Bamako Mali / Government of Mali – Foreign Ministry		
Location:	Mali		
Total Approved Budget : <sup>2</sup>	\$2,997,414		
Preliminary data on funds committed: <sup>3</sup>	\$1,453,085	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	48.45%
Expenditure <sup>4</sup> :	\$847,896	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	30.46%
Project Approval Date:	24 January 2014	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	4 Months
Project Start Date:	February 2014		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	September 2014		

<sup>1</sup> Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

<sup>2</sup> Approved budget is the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations.

<sup>3</sup> Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations. Provide preliminary data only.

<sup>4</sup> Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

5 PBF focus areas are:

1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.1) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Management of natural resources;

3: Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);

(3.1) Short-term employment generation; (3.2) Sustainable livelihoods

4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)

(4.1) Public administration; (4.2) Public service delivery (including infrastructure).

Project Outcome:	Increased security in Kidal area and increased confidence between the parties to the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement through the start-up of cantonment process in 3 camps
PBF Focus Area <sup>5</sup>	Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue

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**Qualitative assessment of progress**

<p>For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.</p> <p>In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved. (1000 characters max.)</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 1: Increased security in Kidal area and increased confidence between the parties to the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement through the start-up of cantonment process in 3 camps.</b></p> <p>Over this reporting period there have been significant events in Kidal that have impacted the ongoing peace process and the security situation. Between 17 and 21 May 2014 there were serious armed clashes between Ouagadougou Signatory Armed Movements (MNLA, HCUA) and Government forces within Kidal City. These clashes resulted in a temporary Ceasefire collapse. Although the Ceasefire was theoretically restored on 23 May, Signatory Armed Movements and their allies have unambiguous control of Kidal town, the majority of the Region and have effective control of significant portions of Gao and Timbuktu Regions. All Government representation above the level of Mayor and all Government forces (with the exception of Tessalit where limited forces are collocated with MINUSMA and SERVAL) have withdrawn from Kidal Region.</p> <p>Over the same period, and in addition to this, there has been a series of significant security incidents and attacks within Kidal region by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) – both against Malian Signatory Armed Movements (MNLA) and MINUSMA peacekeepers. AQIM activities, coupled with the clashes between national authorities and armed groups, have negatively impacted the security situation in Kidal region.</p> <p>This overall context has significantly impacted the project, its objectives and activities. Only approximately half of the project scope has been deliverable, and the breakdown of the peace process has led to the temporary suspension of project activities.</p> <p>Due to the political sensitivity associated with provisioning Armed Groups in the current context, UNOPS provisioning of the initial three pre-cantonment sites and work on the only provisionally approved Cantonment site have halted as of 17 May. Resumption will depend on a political decision of the internationally mediated CTMS. In this regard, it is important to note recent promising developments, including planned inclusive peace talks in Algiers beginning 16 July 2014, as well as the resumption of the CTMS during the month of June and follow-up meetings scheduled to commence 15 July 2014.</p> <p><b>Output 1: Three camps are erected for the sheltering of 1,350 combatants and food, water and energy</b></p>
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	<p><b>provided to beneficiaries for 3 months.</b></p> <p>Of the three camps only one has been designated during this reporting period; identification of other two sites are pending agreement by the parties. Camp construction/refurbishment has not commenced. Food/water/energy has been provided to 1,850 beneficiaries and preliminary water point survey launched.</p> <p><b><u>Output 2: Increased communication and confidence between Accord parties.</u></b></p> <p>In spite of stalled peace process, parties have reaffirmed their commitment to the cantonment process as a confidence-building measure to advance negotiations. It is hoped that upcoming peace talks and CTMS discussions will further stabilize the situation and allow for resumption of project activities.</p> <p>Cantonment support has assisted MINUSMA’s engagement with Signatory Armed Movements in particular in terms of mediation efforts, as well as confidence-building measures - and has greatly assisted in bringing the peace talks back to the Ouagadougou agreement, and the Cease-fire process established on 23 May 2014, and its modalities signed on 13 June 2014.</p> <p>In the current rapidly-shifting context of upcoming peace talks, negotiation efforts and allegations of cease-fire violations, and because this project output is largely dependent upon the peace process itself, increased communication and confidence between Accord parties has been less measurable within this reporting period.</p>
<p>Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding? (1000 characters max.)</p>	<p>The temporary breakdown of the peace process and growing insecurity, particularly in Kidal underline the original assumption that the project itself facilitates but does not substitute for political dialogue resulting in a comprehensive peace accord. In this regard, the direct Peacebuilding impact of the project has been less than would be expected if the peace process had been moving smoothly forwards. The cantonment project requires progress on the peace process to be able to deliver and then measure project outputs and impacts upon Peacebuilding.</p> <p>Today, the capacity and options that this project is intended to provide have been, and are now more than ever, a critical component in the Peacebuilding process in Kidal.</p> <p>Evidence of this can be seen through the retention and importance of cantonment as a central element on the agenda of the peace talks by all parties; up-coming July mediated political and security discussions in Algiers and</p>

	<p>Gao are anticipated to revolve around the Ouagadougou Accord (including Cantonment) and can be seen as a promising development with regard to the present situation. Cantonment remains a vital step in advancing confidence building and arriving at an effective DDR process.</p>
<p>Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/unblocking of any peace relevant processes? (1000 characters max.)</p>	<p>This project has fostered a better understanding of the operational environment and basic needs of the Kidal population, including access to water, electricity and common services. These issues are underpinning the overarching issues of the peace agreement and are particularly acute in Kidal city.</p> <p>The project has worked with the DDR and Stabilization &amp; Recovery Sections, MINUSMA Regional Office in Kidal, SOMAGEP, EDM, Mairie de Kidal, Governor, and local actors to develop a Kidal Action Plan that seeks to address the identified gaps and identify additional funding opportunities in support of broader interventions to restore basic services, expand support to community-based projects and address drivers of conflict in Kidal. The action plan activities are directly linked to Peacebuilding in Kidal.</p>
<p>If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them. (1000 characters max.)</p>	<p>The breakdown of the peace process and deteriorating security situation have directly impacted the project and forced the project to temporarily suspend its operations as of 17 May. The project has adapted to this changing context through this last reporting period and has managed and mitigated the risks that have come from these delays as best possible within the project parameters.</p> <p>The first project activity of Food, Water and NFI supply to ex-combatants has been delivered on schedule.</p> <p>Initially project progress in regard to the construction of the cantonment sites has been slow due to the need of official designation of the sites by the CTMS. Of the three identified sites, only one has been accorded by the CTMS - Arghous Keyone (situated 42km from Kidal).</p> <p>The only way in which these project issues can be resolved is through high-level political dialog and the resumption of the Cantonment support activities, which can only be authorized by decision of the CTMS or comparable body.</p>

	MINUSMA, in the context of the CTMS and the activities of the mediation effort, continue to work to create the conditions which will facilitate the re-launch of this aspect of the peace process.
What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year? (1000 characters max.)	<p>Despite the current challenges, the project expectation is to have all three of the cantonment sites operational, as per the project document. Timeframes are being adjusted in regard to the peace process delays. Currently the CTMS has not defined a date for project activities to re-start. However, it is hoped that upcoming political and security negotiations will help advance the necessary conditions for timely resumption of project activities. If activities can re-start by September, completion by the end of the year is deemed feasible.</p> <p>The results expected would be an improvement in the security situation and confidence among the parties in Kidal by the end of the year.</p>
Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (1000 characters max.)	<p>At the time of reporting, there is no envisaged need to change or adjust the project scope, strategy or budget. There is, however, a need to change the project duration. Currently, with setbacks in the peace process and temporary suspension of project operations, there is a need to request a 'No Cost Extension' of three months (Project end date change from September to 31st December 2014). A formal request will be submitted in line with PBF guidelines and forms.</p> <p>It is expected that the Project Board will review progress in relation to the project and peace process on a regular basis. The last project board meeting (30th June 2014) concluded that there was no requirement for other changes at this stage aside from a request for no cost extension.</p>
Are there any lessons learned from the project in the period reported? (1000 characters max.)	<p><b>Risk management</b> From the project inception, the cantonment project has been recognized as a high-risk engagement. The project document reflects this via risk mitigation and management plans and taking into context the possible issues that the project could face. This has been critical to the ability of the project to react and adjust to the changing political and security environment. The suspension has been managed through 4 levels of project mitigation - through progressive reduction to only two project staff today and reduction of all overhead costs within a very short period of time.</p> <p><b>Project Board Function</b> The project board has been a central anchor within the risk management mechanisms to deal with issues and decision-making maintaining clear and concise communications with stakeholders.</p>

	<p><b>Common methodology</b> Sharing a common project methodology that is practiced by stakeholders and actors within the project has proven to be key. UNOPS uses a processed based methodology that has been developed from the PRINCE2 process cycle and adapted this model to the needs of the management of the project. In future it could be advisable to ensure that the project methodology is defined and familiar to the actors - as are the roles and composition of the project board.</p> <p><b>Project Cycle and Staff Mobilisation Timings</b> The management of the project cycle has been perhaps the greatest challenge in this start-up phase. If the project had followed the initial scope immediately and mobilized all of the Project Implementation Team from the start - the project would have most probably failed by now. Even with much pressure at the project start to have an immediate delivery capacity ready - it has been the key factor of staging project staffing to ensure that the project has remained viable.</p>																									
<p>What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expended by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only? (1000 characters max.)</p>	<p><b>Budget Expenditure to Date (Preliminary Figures 25th June 2014)</b></p> <p>Budget expenditure (preliminary figures from 25th June 2014) shows that the percentage of allocated project budget expended to date is 30.46% of the \$2,997,414M USD total project budget. This has reflected the budget expectations given the project activities and status over this reporting period. The Food, Water and NFI supply activity has been the principle expenditure over this period. Please refer to the table below for preliminary budget expenditure details:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="569 1110 2028 1390"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Categories</b></th> <th><b>Amount RUNO UNOPS</b></th> <th><b>Expenditure to Date</b></th> <th><b>Balance to Date</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Staff and other personnel</td> <td>\$478 924</td> <td>\$229 945</td> <td>\$248 979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Supplies, commodities and materials (Construction)</td> <td>\$1 058 461</td> <td>\$10 395</td> <td>\$1 048 066</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Equipment, vehicle and furniture</td> <td>\$329 928</td> <td>\$56 572</td> <td>\$273 356</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Contractual services (Food, Water NFI Supply)</td> <td>\$662 192</td> <td>\$536 612</td> <td>\$125 580</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Categories</b>	<b>Amount RUNO UNOPS</b>	<b>Expenditure to Date</b>	<b>Balance to Date</b>	1	Staff and other personnel	\$478 924	\$229 945	\$248 979	2	Supplies, commodities and materials (Construction)	\$1 058 461	\$10 395	\$1 048 066	3	Equipment, vehicle and furniture	\$329 928	\$56 572	\$273 356	4	Contractual services (Food, Water NFI Supply)	\$662 192	\$536 612	\$125 580
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	5	Travel	\$66 129	\$14 077	\$52 052
	6	M&E	\$77 963	\$106	\$77 857
	7	General Operating and Direct Costs	\$136 679	\$189	\$136 490
		<b>Subtotal project costs</b>	<b>\$2 810 276</b>	<b>\$847 896</b>	<b>\$1 962 380</b>
	9	Indirect support costs	\$187 138	\$0	\$187 138
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 997 414</b>	<b>\$847 896</b>	<b>\$2 149 518</b>
		<b>Total Budget Percentage breakdown:</b>	100,00%	30.46%	69,54%
Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage? (1000 characters max.)	<p>Advancing a peace process in an immediate post-conflict context, by its very nature, is both a fragile and challenging task. Today at the 5-month point in a project planned for 7 months, the events in Kidal over this reporting period have impacted the project timeframe and whole country with regard to the peace process. The project remains viable and a key confidence-building measure essential to the successful conclusion of the ceasefire process.</p> <p>During the last project board meeting on 30 June 2014, the project requirements and conditions that would be needed to re-start and successfully execute the cantonment project operations were discussed and the following six points were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Primary Pre-condition is the accordance of the Project Board (under the chairmanship of the DSRSG/RC/HC) that the peace process is at a point that has enabled the UN and its programs to reengage activities and implementation with armed groups. This will be formally communicated to UNOPS through the MINUSMA DDR Section.</li> <li>2) That the cantonment component is defined and agreed through the new dialogue process and CTMS officially – that will then be passed by the MINUSMA Section to UNOPS and the project to execute.</li> <li>3) That a ‘No Cost Extension’ is granted to extend project activities through end December 2014.</li> <li>4) That the 3 cantonment sites that will be engaged by the PBF funds are confirmed and designated. Locations and scope of works will need to be confirmed prior to engagement. The scopes are currently for 2x rehabilitations of existing structures and 1x new construction.</li> </ol>				

	<p>5) That the numbers and identification of ex-combatants in locations is reconfirmed with respect to food, water and NFI supply and for camp construction scopes of work.</p> <p>6) That a viable security environment is established within Kidal and at site locations for UNOPS to engage works.</p>
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**INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:** *Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above.*

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Current indicator progress</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>	<b>Adjustment of target (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> <i>Increased security in Kidal area and increased confidence between the parties to the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement through the start-up of cantonment process in 3 camps.</i>						
<b>Output 1.1</b> <i>Three camps are erected for the sheltering of 1 350 combatants; and food, water and energy are provided to the beneficiaries for a period of three months</i>	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of cantoned combatants	Baseline: 0	1350 Comb Cantoned (Female/Male)	Current Progress: 0 Comb Cantoned	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	Adjustment in timeframe only to end year - end of project target is the same.
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of tents erected	Baseline: 0	3 Camps erected, 1350 Comb Cantoned (Female/Male)	Current Progress: 0 Camps erected	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	Adjustment in timeframe only to end year - end of project target is the same.

Indicator 1.1.3 Number of showers and latrines operational	Baseline: 0	41 showers and 54 latrines constructed; and 12 latrines rehabilitated (for female/male combatants)	Current Progress: 0 Showers, 0 Latrines	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	Adjustment in timeframe only to end year - end of project target is the same.
Indicator 1.1.4 Number of meals served	Baseline: 0	243,000 meals served	333,000 meals served	Variance due to - 1850 comb fed 3 meals a day for 60 days = 333,000 Meals. This has been managed within the original budget line - and suspended from end May.	Target is increased due to economies made in delivery - additional 31,500 meals can still be served once activities are re-started under the original budget.
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of litres of water distributed	Baseline: 0	180,000 litres distributed	142,000 litres Distributed	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	Target remains the same - awaiting (political ) CTMS approval to re-start project operations to complete tasking
Indicator 1.1.6 Number of electricity hours provided	Baseline: 0	1,080 electricity hours provided	0 electricity hours provided	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	As no sites have been constructed electricity has not been supplied. Target may reduce - but awaiting re-start of operations to discuss and plan.
Indicator 1.1.7 Number of butane refill distributed	Baseline: 0	265 butane cylinders provided	221 butane cylinders provided	Delays due to 1) slow timetable of CTMS site designation; 2) Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23 May & political suspension of project operations	Target remains the same - awaiting (political ) CTMS approval to re-start project operations to complete tasking

<i>Output 1.2 Increased communication and confidence between Accord parties.</i>	Indicator 1.2.1 Public expression of confidence in the Ouagadougou Accords expressed by civil municipal authorities and local community leaders, Tuareg and non Tuareg.	Baseline: Low confidence	Expression of increased confidence by all parties.	Expressed reduced confidence of all parties	Variance due to Ceasefire Collapse from 17-23th May	Target is maintained - however timeframe adjusted to end year. Will be important to measure changes once political approval for the re-launch of operations is approved and review at end year.
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of joint patrols (at least MINUSMA + HCUA + MNLA) conducted to the Kidal camps	Baseline 0	Routine Patrols	No joint patrols at this time	Delays due to 17-23 May Ceasefire Collapse and political decision to suspend operations.	Patrols will be dependent of CTMS and peace process. Joint patrol planning may change.
	Indicator 1.2.3 Decrease in the number of security incidents in Kidal area involving armed combatants	Baseline: to be defined according to DSS statistics	Target: 0	Increased number of security incidents (DSS Logs)	Delays due to 17-23 May Ceasefire Collapse and political decision to suspend operations.	Target is maintained - however timeframe adjusted to end year. Will be important to measure changes once political approval for the re-launch of operations is approved and review at end year.